

## DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009

PRESENT: CLLRS R G W BAKER (CHAIRMAN), MRS J T THWAITES (VICE-CHAIR), R ANGEL, A R MULCUCK, B STONE AND MRS A THROSSELL  
MRS N GREENAWAY (ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT)

566. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.45pm.

567. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

568. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Angel declared a personal interest in item 571(a), Request to re-visit allotment extension to ease the waiting list, as he is on the waiting list for an allotment

569. **FINANCE**

(a) **Financial Analysis**

**READ** and **NOTED**.

(b) **Football Pitch Fees**

(i) **Annual charges to teams**

Information on the current football pitch fees together with suggested increases and information on the costs of maintenance and materials, which had previously been CIRCULATED, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED** to increase the pitch fees for the forthcoming season, 2009/10, to £181.00 for senior teams and £83.00 for junior teams.

(ii) **Casual Hire**

It was **NOTED** that in the past one off casual matches have been priced on labour costs and have not always covered the cost of materials.

**RESOLVED** casual hire for one off football games be charged at £35.00 per pitch.



570. **ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST MEETING**(a) Ditton Court Quarry [Page 250, Item 503(a)]

It was **NOTED** that the working party is to meet on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling had been invited to officiate at the opening ceremony but had a prior engagement. However the Deputy Mayor would be able to attend.

**RESOLVED** to accept the Deputy Mayors offer to attend the opening ceremony.

(b) Provision for Youth [Page 250, Item 503(b)]

## (i) Update on Goal-End/Youth Shelter project

It was **NOTED** that the installation of the equipment was now complete. Concern was expressed about the distance between the kick wall and youth shelter. However, the post-installation inspection should be carried out this week and if there was a safety issue it should be picked up then. It was **FURTHER NOTED** that an official opening should take place once the Big Lottery plaque has been received and erected.

(c) Dog Refuse Bin – Entrance to Scott Close (Page 251, Item 505)

Discussion took place on possible locations to move the dog bin to.

**RESOLVED** to ask TMBC if the Parish Council can move the bin from the entrance of Scott Close to the Community Centre car park entrance (at the edge for the former dog loo) and also if the dog bin near to the multi-sports could be moved to the edge of the recreation ground near to the barrier by the Grounds Compound and if they can provide an additional or larger bin at the quarry entrance. Also to thank the resident that brought this matter to the Council's attention and for their kind offer to assist with the costs in moving the bin, which was appreciated but would not be necessary.

571. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**(a) Request to re-visit allotment extension to ease waiting list

It was **NOTED** that a resident that had been on the waiting list for some time had asked that consideration be given to extending the site to accommodate some of the people that have been on the waiting list for some time. Discussion took place about the great cost involved and possible alternative sites.

**RESOLVED** that in the current economic climate the Parish Council could not afford to spend such a large amount of money for the provision of allotments but to write again to East Malling Research Centre to ask if they had any unused land that the Parish Council could use for allotments.

(b) E-mail from Mr Piper

**READ** and **NOTED**.

The Chairman **REPORTED** that he had recently met with Mr Hawksworth to discuss allotment issues and there were three main items:-

- A water butt was stolen from one of the plots – someone had climbed over the fence and stolen it by throwing it over.
- Path – the tenants would still like to see this done.

**RESOLVED** to obtain costs for plastic matting for the path.

- Compost toilet – Mr Hawksworth is going to investigate this.  
Discussion took place on the provision of toilet facilities at the allotments and recreation ground site.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Community Centre Committee if allotment holders could use the outside toilets on the Community Centre.

## 572. CORRESPONDENCE FOR DECISION

Paul Curtis : Request for additional use of football pitch  
A request had been received to use the adult pitch on the Acorn Grove side of the Recreation Ground on Sundays when not being used by Holtwood Rangers.

**RESOLVED** NOT TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST AS A PREVIOUS REQUEST TO USE THIS PITCH WAS NOT GRANTED BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAD TO OVER USE OF THE PITCH AND MAY CAUSE DAMAGE.

KM : Letter re request from resident to plant tree in quarry  
A letter from the KM requesting permission to plant a tree in the quarry following a request from a local boy was **READ**.

**RESOLVED** TO ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST BUT STATE THE COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSULTED ON THE LOCATION IN THE QUARRY AND TYPE OF TREE.

## 573. CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING

The Chairman will **READ** the following items and **REPORT** back any items of interest, including one additional item from NSALG:-

NSALG : Allotment & Leisure Gardener 2009 Issue 1

Kent Men of the Trees : Arbor, Wintor 2009

Open Spaces Society : Open Space, Spring 2009, Vol 29 No 4

574. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2009